

S. A. Moffett.

P.Y. Station -
May 1905.

"a movement has been started for the more thorough training of native preachers in special classes under the leadership of Rev. Dr. S. A. Moffett and others."

65th Annual
- Report of the Board of Foreign Missions
(May 1905.) - General Assembly, PCUSA.
p. 12

"This year (1904)
largest addition to the membership of the church in the history of the station - 1,104 adult baptisms. New churches started in "old city" - 158 meeting places in the country work.
3,813 Communicants - in country.
890 " in P.Y. city

4,703 - communicants

13,000 total adherent in country & city. p. 245 f.

"Sermon" to theological students - exegesis of Exodus & Luke; NT introduction, Anthropology & Homiletics - in second term. Also previously completed Apostolic Hist. & Williams' Life of Christ, besides attending training class for "helpers" with an enrollment of 99 - included lectures on Soteriology & on the Office & Work of the Holy Spirit."
- p. 247.

Dr. Moffett prepared a sheet tract for use during evangelistic services.

~~100-2661~~

The station	Moffett (2)	W. B. Hunt (2)	100-2661
	Beard (2)	Bennhead (1)	5861
	Lee (2)	Blair (2)	Korns (1)
	Swallen (2)	Dr. Whitcup (2)	
	Dr. J. H. Walls (2)	Miss Snodgrass	Miss Bet, Miss Kitchwood

Bill,
May I buy a
ride again?

Scott.

Tuesday

July 28 - 1905

My Dear Sam & Alice & Baby:-

I wish I could fly
 right over the sea & turn
 by back upon the kitchen
 & all house hold affairs
 Rosa is sick & didnt-put-
 in an appearance this morning
 & here I am all alone in the
 house & responsible for the
 dinner. Rob is on the hill
 preparing our place for a wagon
 sette full of pic nicker for
 the afternoon & evening. I have
 engaged a maid to go with me
 to clean up the cottage for the
 Bamfords - What do you think
 of that? - The B's have always

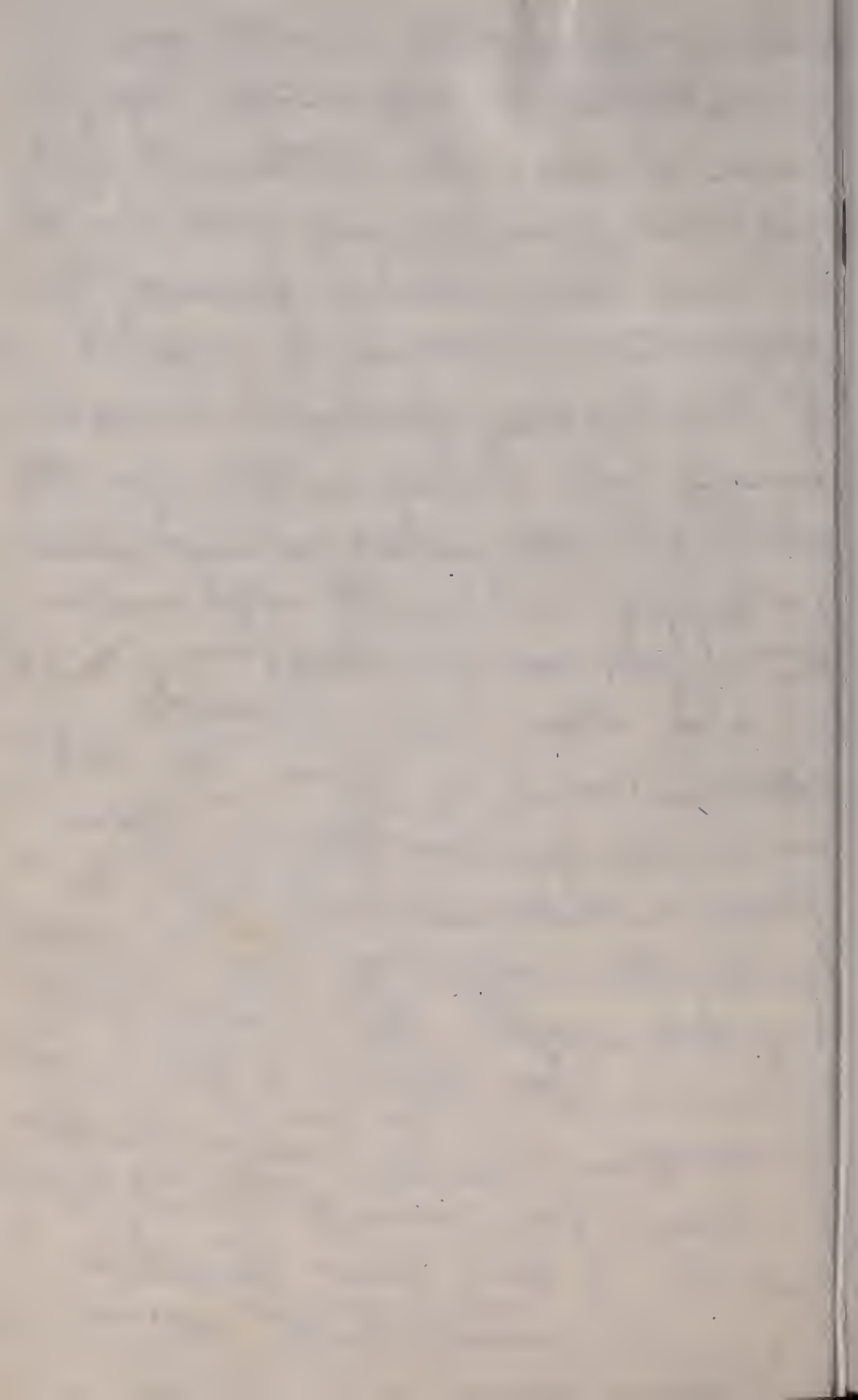
I have lots to write - but - my strength gives out -
 I have lots to write - but - my strength gives out -

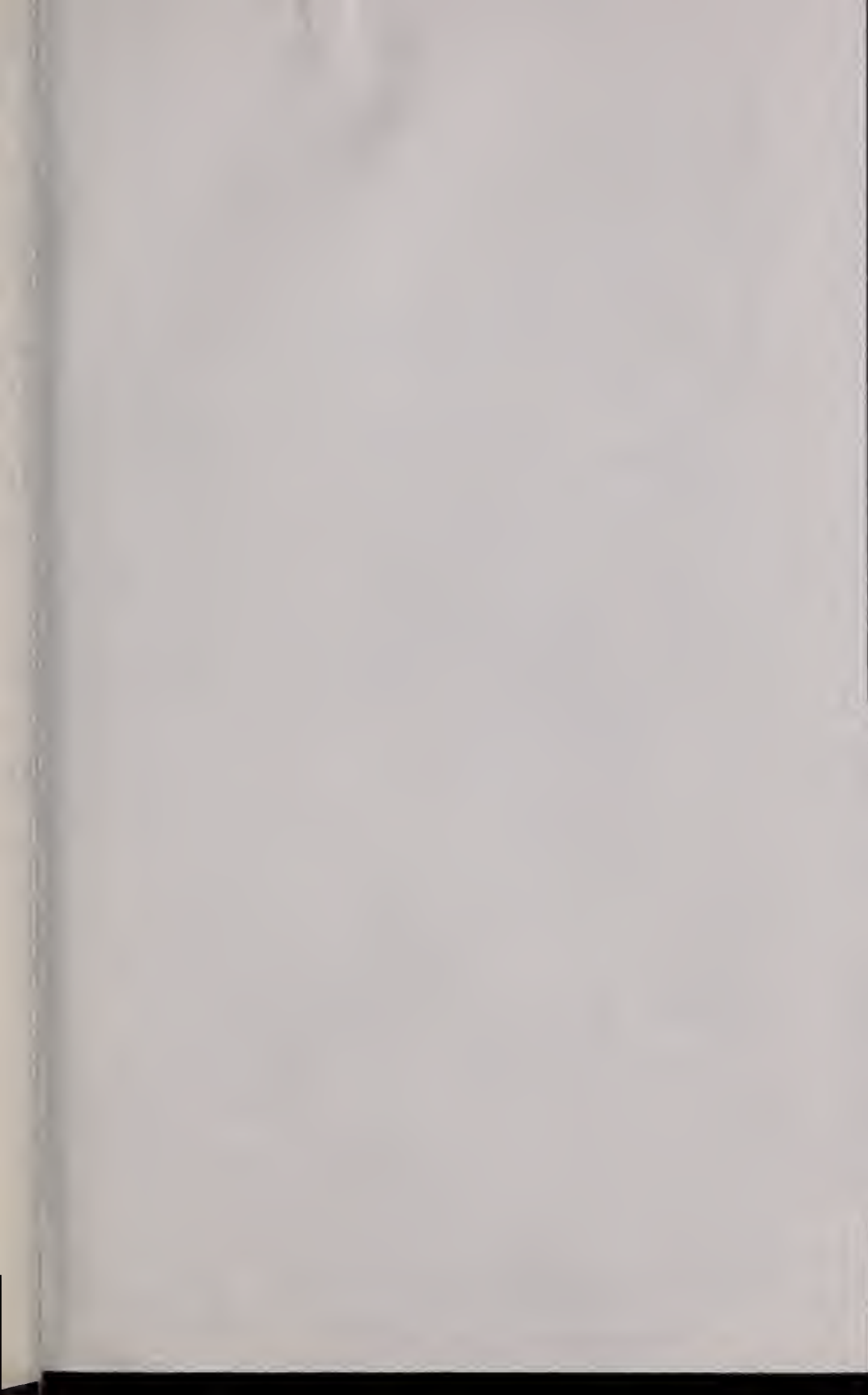
delighted in the place so I
thought they might occupy it
for a month or two - July 26th

Nellie & I were at the cottage
all yesterday afternoon cleaning up
& preparing for the Barnfords
It will seem strange to give up
the place for a time but Rob
will keep up his work & continue
to beautify the flower beds, the
"Park" &c. - But I must tell you
about Clinton. Two weeks ago
he suffered great pain in bowels
or more properly the groin - There
seemed to be a misplacement or
something the Dr didn't understand
(Dr Ford) He advised consultation
with Dr Ransakoff of the Jewish
Hospital, Cin - Howard didn't want
to lose any time - By telephone
he made an engagement for the

next morning at 8 o'clock for
consultation on operation. Of
course it was the latter - The boat
was delayed by fog but by ten
or later there was a successful
operation - It was a cup time
of the bowels - Dr Ford advised
Howard not to stay in the operating
room for the patient always seems
to suffer so greatly when under
the influence of chloroform (or
whatever other word I want)

Clinton was very grave - He was
very sick for an hour or more
afterward but all went well &
he is still improving - We had some
very hot weather that was pretty
hard on both Howard & Clinton.
The confinement is hard on Clinton
He longs for home & Liberty -
But he is very sweet tempered
& a great favorite with the





nurses in the Hospital. They
bring him a great many nice
drinks & now he has very
good fare - Last week Ella &
Carrie went up for a two
days visit - Had pleasant-rooms
near by - they & Howard taking
their dinners at McAlpins in
the City - Howard went-prepared
to stay a month if necessary but
I think they can come in another
week - It will be two weeks tomorrow
night - It is a very hard experience
for Howard. He was so anxious &
he is such a devoted Father - It
reminded me of Fathers at prison in
nursing you in Chicago - I was
reading some of those letters not
long ago. How anxious we all were &
how thankful you were spared for your
good work. Do lend me the baby for an hour
I am so lonesome your loving Mother

W. N. Blair

TIDINGS FROM AFAR

"In Thee Shall All the Nations of the Earth be Blessed."

VOL. IV.

MAY—JUNE, 1905.

[Grove City, Pa.]

No. 5.

MISSION WORK PROSPERING.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair Find Their Work Bringing Forth the Fruit of the Gospel.

Dear Friends; Winter is over and Spring is with us again. It has been a strange winter for Korea; warm and almost no snow. The Japanese claim that it is just such a winter as the God of Heaven gave them ten years ago when they were able to fight all winter long against the Chinese. It certainly looks now as though the war would have to end soon. God grant that it may. The carnage in Manchuria is unspeakable.

We, here in Korea, have so much to be thankful for. Last spring troops filled the land. The Koreans were afraid to plant and only weeds grew along the highways. This spring every inch will be planted. All the houses are thatched. There is much unrest of course due to the Japanese occupation, but the people are as a whole decidedly prosperous.

Our work is growing as never before. During the month of February a wonderful movement began here which is now spreading over all Korea. It is customary to hold a Bible study class for the Pyeng Yang city Christians at the Korean New Year season which came this year the Fourth of February. The Koreans are all very happy because they have lived to see the New Year. Everybody gets new clothes and goes around to congratulate everybody else. For two weeks all business is suspended; games of different kinds are played by young and old. Small boys climb the hills and fly kites with a skill that would make an American boy envious. While the kite is very high and far away, by a twist of the wrist they can make it swoop like a hawk and dart straight down for hundreds of feet till I am just sure it will land on a housetop, but suddenly another twist makes the kite right itself and instantly it darts off to one side or climbs straight up into the blue, higher and higher with little jumps like a lark. The men used to divide themselves and engage in great stone fights. They haven't done that the last two years now. It is a time of feasting and wine drinking, and above all it is a time of sacrificing to heathen gods and to the spirits of dead ancestors in particular. It is interesting that this season of heathen festival should be turned into a time of special turning to Christ.

This year during the class our people went out every afternoon two by two and invited their heathen neighbors to attend the evening services. Hundreds came for their first time every evening. After the sermon an invitation was given to those who desired to become Christians to stand up and twenty, thirty, forty, fifty rose every evening. The meetings were continued for one month and in that time at the Methodist and two Presbyterian churches more than

one thousand people had made profession of their desire to become followers of Christ. Of course many of these won't hold out against the persecution they are sure to endure; but all our churches are overcrowded. Next Sabbath about two hundred people will be received as catechumens at the Central church. We received thirty two weeks ago at the South Gate church. Next Sabbath and the week following we expect to receive some fifty or sixty more. You understand, do you not, that it is our practice to receive those who profess faith in Christ first as catechumens and after they have attended and studied for one year to baptise and receive them into the church. I shall always be glad to answer questions any may care to ask about the work here. You could help us very much if you would suggest to us what you would like to know. This is only an aside in my letter. Let me proceed with the description of the movement. Word is coming in from all our country groups that they are having just such increases everywhere as we are having here. I am especially rejoiced over the good news from Kai Chun. It is one of the larger towns in my northern country work and somehow heretofore we have never been able to get any work started there. Word comes now that some thirty people there have decided to believe. Just such reports come to me from all my work. You can easily believe that I am anxious to get out and look after things, but until the fifteenth of this month I am tied down as I have been for a month and a half past now teaching in the academy. We are planning to build a third Presbyterian church here in the city and also to enlarge the South Gate church. As I happen to be one of the South Gate church building committee, this means considerable work for me.

The main line of the Seoul Wei Ju R. R., which passes through Pyeng Yang, does not go through An Ju, the largest city in my northern work but passes ten miles to the west. I understand now however that the Japanese are building a branch road into An Ju. This means that I will be able to go from here in a few hours instead of in two days. The road is almost complete now. Construction trains make daily trips and I hope to be able to go by rail to An Ju next month.

The building of this railroad to An Ju makes it more desirable than ever that we should have some sort of mission quarters in An Ju so that I could live there a part of the year, Mrs. Blair and the children sometimes going with me. I have been trying now for two years to get the Board to appropriate enough money to enable us to do this, but the Board is so hard pressed to carry on established work that I almost despair getting the house which we need so badly.

I am going to leave the most interesting subjects of all for Mrs. Blair to write—the home and the commu-

nity news and especially the children, ah! but they are dears—I am always so sorry that none of you can see them.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM N. BLAIR.

PYENG YANG, KOREA., April 5, 1905.

Dear Friends: Since the last number of "Tidings from Afar" I have taken one little country trip. I shall tell you a little of that and then I must finish the love story I began two numbers ago

Sook Chun is a town about thirty-six miles north of here where Mr. Blair has one of his largest churches. They try to have a week's Bible study class there each year for both the men and the women, one of the missionaries going if possible and if not, one of the Koreans who has studied some here. But this year it seemed impossible to get even a Korean woman to go and as they had not had a foreigner for three years, I decided to go myself. Mr. Blair was compelled to remain here anyway by his work in the academy so I left Lois here with him and the Korean woman who helps me with the babies, and I took Katharine and started out, Mrs. Wells, the wife of our station physician, going with me. It is a long day's ride in chairs and we did not get in until eight o'clock and then in the midst of a soft, wet snow. But it was not cold and baby in her warm nest of blankets did not know she was out. Some of the men came out a mile to meet us and our room was cosy and warm with the two women waiting to give us a warm, joyful welcome. We soon had our supper, cooked by the faithful boy who is indispensable on a country trip, and then our cots were put up and we lay down to rest as comfortably as you please.

Next morning we greeted all the women who had come from the villages around and then I had a devotional service. After dinner Mrs. Wells led a prayer service and after that we enrolled the women and assigned the next day's lessons. One day of the class will give you a good idea of the whole. In the morning at 9:30 we had a half-hour's prayer service Mrs. Wells and I leading on alternate mornings. After that I taught them Phillipians for an hour or more. Then the Korean woman who came with us taught the Korean character to the women who could not read. In the afternoon Mrs. Wells taught Matthew's gospel and then I would give them half an hour's sewing lesson. After lessons were over we always went calling to the homes of the Christians. We went to all the nearby villages and as nearly every woman who could leave her house would come to the Christian's house to see the foreign "poo eeri," we had a splendid chance to tell the good news to them. Several who heard them came to the class afterwards and said they would believe.

In the evening we nearly always had a little prayer meeting with the women and I think it was then we came nearest to them. I can see them now in the low, dimly lighted room of the church, sitting in a group on the mats before me as I try to make plain to them some of the truths of the Scripture they seem to need most. I think Korean women like best the story of the woman who touched the hem of Christ's garment and was clean. They know what it is to be unclean, to be spurned of men, to be afraid, to be neglected, to be cast out. Yes and these women before me now are among those who have heard a loving voice say, "Daughter, be of good comfort." "We are just like

that woman," they say, "We were so sinful and so ignorant that every one despised us until we heard of Jesus and then we just believed and now we are all children of God." And they are. The light of their Father's love shines from their faces.

The teaching is one of the last parts of the class Mr. Blair is their pastor so of course his wife belongs to them and all their tales of joy and sorrow—more, alas, of the sorrow—must be told to me, the "pooeen." One old lady brought me half a dozen eggs. She says they are for her daughter, a young woman whom I knew well, who died recently and was followed almost immediately by the tiny baby boy she had left behind her. She was the only child of her mother and these eggs were her memorial. They were precious to me but I think the gift was gold in heaven.

Another woman tells about the happy marriage of her daughter and still another tells of "God's grace" in giving them a son and proudly shows the little almond eyed specimen of humanity carefully tied to her back.

The saddest time is the evening before we leave and the next morning too when the women are all up early to see us off. "They sorrow most of all" that they shall see our faces no more—not for a year anyway and doubtless two or three. And we too are sad because it is so easy to learn to love them and we know how empty their lives will seem when we are gone. But we are both glad to get back to the husbands and children waiting at home and they meet us with a fresh realization that we are quite indispensable people in two houses in Pyeng Yang.

And now for my love story. Hyung Che, the young lover, was long in despair. His sweetheart left school and went home with no sign of relenting from the hard hearted parent. He was happy through it all though, and brave, and his waiting had its reward in a ray of hope when the father came up to attend the winter class. For then the man sought out, not Kyung Che himself, that would have been entirely too direct a method to suit eastern conventionality. But the mutual friend who had conducted the first negotiations. And then it came to light that the young lady simply would not marry any one else and since every Korean young lady must be married, he, the father, decided to make the best of it and said that they not only should be married but that they must be married at once. So Hyung Che at once began to raise the necessary funds to buy the bride's trousseau, for in Korea that is one of the bridegroom's privileges. He buys material, not only for her clothing but his own, and sends it ahead to the bride who must make up the whole of it. And careful must she be lest the eagle eye of her mother-in-law detect uneven stitches. There was a roll of muslin for the full trousers which both the men and the women wear, another of linen for the pleated skirts of the bride, three pieces of silk, one a light blue with a diamond shaped brocade, another green, with flowers brocaded on it, and still another of a pretty silk gauze, all these for the little short jackets the young women wear. Beside these yet were materials for comforts and mattresses—a very modest outfit. At one wedding I attended recently the bride had eighteen of these jackets, some of them most beautifully lined with fur.

And then the morning after he had sent the outfit, as by custom prescribed, the bridegroom appeared in man's garb. The long braid which had swung behind

PYENG YANG CENTRAL CHURCH

(From Personal Report of Dr. S.A. Moffett, Sept. 1905.)

The great ingathering of hundreds of new converts during the evangelistic services carried on in connection with the city New Years classes occupied all my time in February and March, while provision for the instruction and oversight of our large city constituency more and more taxes the energy of pastors and church officers. A monthly meeting with the leaders of tens has been a great help, and additions to the number of leaders, deacons, and Sabbath school teachers has increased the number of active, effective workers. Three more elders also have just been elected.

I have also given considerable personal attention to the men's Bible classes now meeting jointly with the women's classes under Mrs. Swallen at the central church building.

The church with its enrollment of 915 members, 499 catechumens, and 150 baptized children, a total of 1564, has so large a constituency and such congregations as not only make it impossible to longer hold monthly joint meetings with the South Gate congregation, but also impossible to provide comfortably for all who would attend. The necessity for a third church building is evident, and a good large site in the northern section of the city has been given by one of the deacons for a new church when plans for a new organization and building can be effected.

This however does not meet the question as to how to provide for large mass meetings, which at times are desirable. The mass meeting in June, when Dr. Underwood preached to over 2000 people gathered in the open air outside of the central church, and our inability to provide church room for the congregations next winter, when from 500 to 800 people will assemble for the winter classes, show plainly our need of an auditorium for larger assemblies. Shall we enlarge the church for this purpose according to a plan drawn by Mr. Lee, which will provide rooms so arranged that they can be thrown into the main auditorium when needed but leave the room as it is when the ordinary congregation only is assembled? The question has been discussed in the officers' meetings, and they are eager for the enlargement to provide for about 2500 people. This however would mean an expenditure greater than the church can bear now, since, in addition to its present large responsibilities, it must for some years continue its contributions for the new church building to be erected. The contributions this year for all purposes from the two congregations amounted to yen 3,856, a sum which shows that the church is not shirking its duty along financial lines. We believe that the use of foreign funds in providing for the addition is justified, and that this will not in any way interfere with the principle of self-support or injure a church already eager to contribute to the extent of its ability.

The inadequate support heretofore provided for the pastors' assistants, and their consequent ill health and inability to continue in the work, brought the officers and the church to realize that this question has never been rightly met. At a very full congregational meeting and after frank and full discussion, the congregation unanimously decided upon 25 yen a month as the right amount which should be given. This is far in advance of any salary heretofore given, and shows a growing appreciation on the part of the people of the debt of gratitude due to the helpers, and also the recognition of the increased cost of living.

(From "The Korea Mission Field, November, 1905.)

